THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, January 11, 1802.

Sketch of the Character of the Right Hon. Mr. Addington, the Prime Minister of England.

[From Public Characters, just published by Mr. Phillips.]

MR. ADDINGTON, who was thus destined for the bar, might in time have obtained a silk gown, and perhaps risen to the dignity of a Welch judge; but he soon found that a *wig of another kind* suited his head far better than that of the president of a provincial judicature: nor was he mistaken in his hopes. The brilliant career of his young friend already pointed to the first offices of the state, and Mr. Addington was *drawn up* to power and consequence in the vortex of his successful ambition.

We soon find him occupying a seat in Parliament, declaiming against Mr. Fox's coalition with Lord North, opposing the India bill of that gentleman, and smoothing his friend's way, by an oily eloquence rather than a transcendant oratory, to the summit of power. No sooner was this attained on the part of Mr. Pitt, than Mr. Addington began to taste *those crumbs of comfort*, in the shape of official emoluments, which he is now enabled so plentifully to bestow: but a more lucrative situation awaited him, which, after a warm struggle, he obtained in 1789, in a manner highly honourable to himself.

Mr. now Lord Grenville, was at this period Speaker of the House of Commons; and it was deemed necessary that he should be elevated to one of the highest departments in the state. The friends of Mr. Addington immediately pointed him out as a proper person to succeed him. The Marquis of Graham accordingly, on Monday, July 8, 1789, after a high eulogium on his talents, moved "that he should take the chair." Sir Gilbert Elliot was proposed by Mr. Welbore Ellis, now Lord

Mendip, and on the diviſion the numbers appeared, for Mr. Addington 215, for Sir Gilbert Elliot 142—majority 73. Mr. Addington accordingly aſſumed the inſignia of office: but, when he addreſſed the king on the occaſion, he was pleaſed to obſerve, with becoming modeſty, "that he felt himſelf unequal to the arduous taſk which the partiality of that Houſe had impoſed upon him; and hoped his majeſty would be pleaſed, by his royal diſapprobation of their preſent choice, to afford his faithful Commons an opportunity of electing a perſon better qualified to diſcharge the duties of an office ſo important."

On the convocation of a new parliament, a few months after, Mr. Addington was unanimouſly re-elected, and the ſubject of the impeachment ſoon afforded a very appoſite opportunity for the exerciſe of his talents and induſtry, more eſpecially when the queſtion was agitated, whether the impeachment of Warren Haſtings, Eſq. ſubſiſted ſubſequent to the diſſolution of parliament.

On the occaſion, Mr. Addington evinced conſiderable ability, and clearly proved from public record, that impeachments did not abate by a diſſolution of parliaments.

The late Speaker did not confine himſelf to what might be termed his official duties. He was always an active and efficient member when the houſe ſat in a committee, and a chairman regulated the debates. Few ſubjects of great national importance but were canvaſſed by him on thoſe occaſions, and he muſt be allowed, in general, to have added great weight and importance to whatever ſide he adopted.

While Mr. Addington was diſtinguiſhing himſelf in the Speaker's chair, by the impartiality with which he regulated the debates, and the order and decorum with which he conducted the public buſineſs, an event no leſs ſudden than extraordinary occurred, which produced a very material change in his ſituation. The event to which we now allude, was the reſignation of Mr. Pitt and his colleagues, a meaſure of a very ambiguous nature, and which has never yet been ſufficiently explained. While all men were anxious to know who was to be the new miniſter, the public learned, with ſome degree of ſurpriſe, that Mr. Addington had been ſent for by the king, and held daily conferences with his majeſty. This buſineſs was firſt conducted with ſome degree of myſtery, one of the royal family having lent his equipage, in order, if poſſible, to conceal the negociation from the prying eye of curioſity. But this was of no avail, for it was ſoon rumoured abroad, and was not upon the whole unfavourably received, as Mr. Pitt's adminiſtration had of late years been ſupported by the *fears* rather than the *love* of the people.

The king's ſecond alarming illneſs for a while protracted the retreat of the then Chancellor of the Exchequer; but, on his majeſty's

majeſty's convaleſcence, all the neceſſary arrangements were made, and every thing adjuſted ſeemingly to the entire ſatisfaction of thoſe who went out, as well as thoſe who came in.

Mr. Addington having thus leaped from the Speaker's chair to the treaſury bench, the eyes of the whole nation became fixed upon him. It was hoped that, after a bloody and expenſive war, ſome ſincere and deciſive meaſures would be taken in order to produce a peace; and it muſt be allowed, that the conduct of the new premier, in this inſtance, has given greater ſatisfaction, by its openneſs and candour, than the haughty behaviour of his predeceſſors.

Mr. Addington's firſt attempt in his financial capacity certainly did not come up to the expectations of the public, and the bill to diſqualify the clergy from ſitting in the Houſe of Commons would have paſſed with a far better grace, had it not expreſsly precluded a man hoſtile to his principles, from oppoſing them in a public manner.

The preſent premier poſſeſſes great influence, in conſequence of the excellence of his character, and the high reſpect he had acquired during the time he acted as a Speaker. His majeſty may be ſaid to evince a *perſonal* attachment to him, and, if report be true, he has preſented him with, and furniſhed for him, a houſe in Richmond-park, in order to be near him at all times.

In private life Mr. Addington is particularly amiable. He is a ſincere friend, an affectionate brother, a kind father, and a tender huſband. Poſſeſſing an ample income, and being but little devoted to expence, he cannot be ſuppoſed to be inſtigated by the ſordid wiſh of creating a fortune for himſelf; and, as his connexions are all in affluent circumſtances, he has no poor relations to provide for out of the public purſe. On the other hand, it remains to be proved, whether his abilities entitle him to rank as a firſt-rate ſtateſman; and a few years—perhaps a few months—will determine, whether the new miniſter be deſtined to confer glory or diſgrace on the empire; to ſubvert or to reſtore the liberties of his country!

A Gipſey Supper in the New Foreſt deſcribed, with ſome Remarks on that ſingular Set of People.

To the PRINTER,

SIR, *December* 14, 1801.

ON one of thoſe evenings in laſt July, when, by ſuſpending his humid mantle over the cope of heaven, the Weeping Saint increaſed the gloom of nightfall, I happened to be walking home entirely alone through a wide loneſome foreſt-lane, when I was ſurpriſed at one of its abrupt turnings, by the view

of a fierce fire, and the ſound of vociferations of ſuch dubious tenor, that I was doubtful whether they proceeded from anger, joy, or terror: however, I ſoon diſcovered that they reſulted from hilarity alone, being nothing but the jargoniſh effuſions of a gang of gipſies over (in their eſtimation) a moſt voluptuous ſupper, conſiſting of a rotten ſheep, a leaſh of hedgehogs, and a brace of gulls, that had probably died on the neighbouring common in conſequence of eating wild camomile. The *effluvia* of theſe dainties predominated ſtrongly in the evening breeze, and were powerfully blended with the fumes of tobacco, brandy, and onions, three favourite articles of Egyptian luxury. This party could not be otherwiſe than happy in the enjoyment of a feaſt ſo much to their taſte, eſpecially as their feſtivity was heightened by dancing, fidling, and tumbling. Their tents were pitched beneath ſome oaken hedge-row pollards, and about them lay bales of trumpery out of number, together with the implements neceſſary for rat-catching, tinkering, and razor-grinding, the oſtenſible callings of gipſey-men. Their aſſes and ponies were brouzing greedily on the low thicket-ſtuff and herbage near, and their dogs were ſlumbering on the bundles of ragged baggage.

Although I have not the misfortune of being either very nervous or very timid; yet I acknowledge that the ſight of this riff-raff band cauſed me to halt, and conſider with myſelf whether it were beſt to proceed or to recede. The watch I had about me was a valuable one, and I had more money in my purſe than I could afford to loſe in theſe hard times. I was but one unarmed man to 18 ſturdy fellows; and I knew, that notwithſtanding the preſence of their fathers, brothers, and nominal huſbands, I had as much to fear from the covert attacks of licentious females as from the boiſterous aſſaults of the ferocious males. It ſtruck me how eaſily and ſecurely they might rob, murder, and bury me; and though I never heard of Engliſh gipſies being ſuſpected of anthropophagy, yet the recollection of the circumſtance occurred to me at that moment, of a numerous gang of Hungarian gipſies having been executed in the year 1782 for devouring the fleſh of 84 perſons in the ſpace of 21 years.

To avoid any encounter with the company I was ſo near, I felt an inclination to turn back; but two objections exiſted to my doing ſo. In that caſe I muſt have walked a circuit of ſix miles through poachy (for the recent heavy rains had made the foreſt very deep) and intricate ways that I was not well acquainted with; and I was fore-warned by diſtant thunder that a formidable ſtorm was approaching, an evil I was as much unprepared for as I was for fighting with gipſies.

After ſome farther obſervation, I thought it feaſible to paſs the vagabonds unobſerved. They were too deeply immerſed

in

in noiſy jollity to be likely to hear my ſteps; and the light of their rouſing fire precluded the poſſibility of their ſeeing me, though it enabled me to diſcern them and all their motions very diſtinctly. Between the two hedges that formed the lane was a ſmall unequal brake, covered with holms, fern, and furzes; on one ſide of which ran the cart track occupied by the gipſies, and on the other a rugged path-way along which I thought I could ſkulk unnoticed. I accordingly made the attempt, creeping as quietly as poſſible behind the hollies, till an unlucky furze-ſtump tripped up my heels, the noiſe attending which miſchance rouſed the rat-catching curs, and made them bark. On this a fellow called out churliſhly, "Who the devil is there?" To which unwelcome interrogation I had promptitude enough to reply, in the accent of a countryman, "Only old John Rogers going home from mowing." The improbability of any perſon other than a peaſant being paſſing through ſo lonelome a lane at that time, joined perhaps to the natural indolence of the gipſey-race, probably ſaved me from any farther moleſtation, and I reached my temporary home, near Lymington, in a ſkin both whole and dry, with watch and money ſafe.

The circumſtance of the Jews having preſerved themſelves, through ſo many ages and in ſo many ſtates a diſtinct people, is not more extraordinary than that of the gipſies having done the ſame. Like the Jews, the gipſies appear to be a diſperſed nation; but where the latter originally came from can never now be aſcertained with certainty. From their uncommon hardineſs one might ſuppoſe them deſcendants of a northern horde, but their complexion and features ſeemingly indicate them to be of eaſtern origin.

A German author has endeavoured to prove them deſcendants of the ſordid Indian caſt denominated Sudors, and ſuppoſes their anceſtors to have migrated from India when Timur Bey ravaged that part of Aſia in 1409, which date furniſhes him with an argument in favour of his conjecture, as the firſt appearance of gipſies in Europe was in 1417; in which year they entered Germany, and probably in great numbers, as before 1428 the German empire, Hungary, Tranſylvania, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy, and France, were over-run by them. It is likely that from France they croſſed into England, but in what preciſe year I believe does not appear, though it is evident that they were become very numerous and obnoxious here before 1531; becauſe the king (Hen. VIII.) and parliament in that year made a law for expelling them the kingdom, the ſeverity of which was increaſed by another act concerning them paſſed in the time of Mary the Firſt, and rendered more arbitrary ſtill by one made in the reign of Elizabeth; ſome of the pains and penalties of which were very properly repealed a few years back, as they were a diſgrace to our ſtatute-book, being totally inconſiſtent with the

the general ſpirit of the Engliſh conſtitution. Theſe unmerciful acts did not, however, entirely effect the end deſigned; for the gipſies have, till this day maintained their ground here, exerciſed the ſame mal-practiſes they were ever famed for, and invariably adhering to habits peculiar to themſelves. No calculation of the number of them in England ever came to my knowledge; but I do not think they have been ſo numerous in our Southern counties ſince they have been ſo much perſecuted in their ſtrong hold in Norwood, where their eſtabliſhment formerly excited ſo much curioſity, that, according to Mr. Doddington's Diary,

"On June 28, 1750, the Prince and Princeſs of Wales, Lady Middleſex, Lord Bathurſt, Mr. Poreton, Mr. Dodington, and Lady Torrington (lady in waiting) went in private coaches to Norwood Foreſt to ſee a ſettlement of gipſies."

I remember, when I was a child, hearing elderly people ſay, that a queen of the gipſies once lay-in in Norwood in ſo much ſtate that people of good condition went to ſee her.

A SOUTHERN FAUNIST.

SYMPTOMS *of* SELF-IMPORTANCE.

[From "Senilities, or Solitary Amuſements," by the Editor of the Spiritual Quixote, &c.]

"I will frown, as I paſs by; and let them take it as they liſt."
SHAKESPEARE.

AS I am an idle man, and live in the vicinity of Bath, I ſpend many of my mornings in traverſing the ſtreets and public walks of that beautiful city. The magnificence of the many elegant buildings, and the cheerfulneſs of the ſcene, ſooth the imagination and tranquillize the ſpirits. Yet I find the calm compoſure of my mind frequently interrupted, and my nerves unpleaſantly irritated, by the haughty and faſtidious looks of thoſe I meet.

Though I will not ſubſcribe to the infallibility of Lavater's ſyſtem of phyſiognomy; yet the feelings of every one, without any rules, may interpret the ſentiments of moſt people, from the air and caſt of their countenances.

Man is by nature ſociable and friendly to man: and when there is no oppoſition of intereſts, rarely harbours any malicious or hoſtile diſpoſitions againſt his fellow-creatures. Whence then are thoſe unfriendly, contemptuous, and repulſive airs, which we continually meet with in thoſe with whom we have no connection, and whom we have never injured or offended? Who ſurvey us with ſuch a ſupercilious, diſdainful mien, as if they

queſtioned our right to exiſt in the ſame diſtrict, or even on the face of the ſame globe with themſelves.

I ſometimes meet a man ſo ſtately in his deportment, ſo haughty in his look, with ſuch an air of defiance in his whole manner, that I ſhrink from his appearance, and feel myſelf annihilated in his preſence. Yet, on recovering from my diſmay, and reflecting on the limited power and capacity of every human being, I find, probably, on enquiry, the real character of this illuſtrious perſonage; that his pompous air contains a mean ſpirit, and that the ſolemn countenance is only a veil for his ignorance and inſignificance.

Such are many of thoſe coloſſal figures, who ſeem to "beſtride the world, and under whoſe legs, as it were, we petty mortals muſt *peep about*," to find a loop-hole to paſs by them, without being cruſhed againſt the wall, or joſtled in the kennel.

One man, whom I have met, perhaps, at a third place, aſſumes a reſerved and diſtant air, leſt I ſhould claim him as an acquaintance*. Another man, with eyes fixed, looks ſtrait forward, and though our elbows almoſt touch, ſeems unconſcious that any one is near him, or at leaſt worthy his notice.

A third is nearſighted, and though we have met perhaps on various occaſions, has not the honour to recollect my name. All theſe are different ſtratagems of pride and ſelf-importance, which, though not reducible to the preciſe rules of quarrelling, like the lie direct, and for which we can call a man to an account; yet may, and ought to be reſented, or rather treated with the contempt which they deſerve.

I remember a ſtout fellow, with a moſt terrific countenance, who, if he met a man ſtrutting along in ſublime contemplation of his own importance, and a ſovereign contempt of all around him, would, on a ſudden, run up to him, turn his large white eyes upon him, and cry boh! This, it may be ſuppoſed, often involved him in a ſcuffle, or rough rencounter; but generally raiſed a laugh at the expence of the haughty deſpot.

A proud look is an inſult on the public. Pride was not made for man; nor for woman neither. Yet I have ſeen a fair ſpinſter, rather paſt her bloom, who has been converſing with a polite ſmile in the midſt of two or three gentlemen; but on the appearance of a young nymph, in the gloſſy luſtre of fifteen, aſſume a haughty air, and ſurvey the bluſhing harmleſs virgin, with ſuch a murderous aſpect, that I have been alarmed for the conſequences.

What then do I expect from thoſe whom I meet in public, and who certainly have a right to *look*, as well as to *act*, as they pleaſe, in defiance of my aſſumed centorian authority. Why; I expect,

* The Tapino-phoby, or dread of *low* acquaintance, prevails more in Bath, perhaps, than in any other public place in Europe.

I expect, that every man ſhould look with an air of kindneſs and benignity on all mankind; or, at leaſt, not to aſſume a hoſtile or menacing aſpect toward thoſe who have never injured or offended him.

Let a man of rank or diſtinction aſſume the dignity becoming his ſtation and character; but let not thoſe who have no rank, nor, perhaps any character, to diſtinguiſh them from the vulgar, affect that ſuperiority, which is an affront to every one they meet, and which will not eaſily be allowed them in a country of true liberty, and where education and virtue make the only real diſtinction, and where men will not be impoſed upon or kept in awe by a ſolemn appearance or arrogant pretenſions.

Account of a Deſcent into the Crater of Mount Veſuvius by Eight Frenchmen, on the Night between the 18th and 19th of July, 1801.

TO aſcend to the ſummit of Mount Veſuvius, which is elevated 3600 feet above the level of the ſea, is an enterpriſe of great difficulty, as it is neceſſary for nearly half the height to climb an exceedingly ſteep declivity up to the knees in aſhes. Some philoſophical men of eminence, however, as Spallanzani, Dolomieu, Dr. Moore, &c. have overcome all theſe difficulties. Sir William Hamilton, who cauſed a great many views of Veſuvius to be deſigned during his long reſidence at Naples, aſcended to the ſummit of it ſixty-two times; but no one, at leaſt ſince the eruption in 1779, ever ventured to deſcend into the crater of this volcano, not even Sir William Hamilton, who conſidered it under ſo many points of view, and who viſited it ſo many times. It was reſerved for eight Frenchmen to hazard this dangerous enterpriſe, and to ſucceed in it completely, notwithſtanding the timidity of their guides, the impoſſibility which the Neapolitans attached to it, and the inſtances they mentioned of raſh travellers who had loſt their lives in the attempt, and been ſwallowed up by the volcano.

To be able to appreciate the danger of this enterpriſe, it will be neceſſary to have a correct idea of the form and poſition of Veſuvius, and of the matters which it throws up. This volcano has the form of a truncated cone, and a part of its baſe, which is altogether three leagues in circumference, is waſhed by the Mediterranean; its mouth, or upper baſe, which is a little inclined to the axis, is 5722 feet in circumference. The earth from the baſe to half the height conſiſts of vegetable mould mixed with lava and ſtones which have not been attacked by the fire, tufas, pumice, and calcareous ſtones, different in their nature

ture and colour according to the different degrees of impreſſion which have been made on them by the fire.

The half of the height next the ſummit is compoſed chiefly of pure aſhes, but coarſer than our common aſhes. Till the preſent time there have been twenty-four eruptions recorded in hiſtory. The firſt took place in the year 79 after the Chriſtian æra: by theſe eruptions volcanic matters have been ſucceſſively accumulated, but by that of 1779, the ſituation of the crater and of the aperture was entirely changed. The focus or crater is now ſunk 200 feet below the upper edges of the mouth of the volcano.

To arrive at the crater, and to obſerve the numerous ſpiracles, long crevices, and fires which iſſue from them in ſeveral places, and alſo the variegated and ſtill ſmoking matters of which the crater is compoſed, it was neceſſary to paſs over this ſpace of 200 feet.

The inner ſides of the volcano are nearly perpendicular, or exceedingly ſteep, and compoſed of aſhes, lava, and large calcareous ſtones; but theſe lava and ſtones, as they form no connection with the aſhes, cannot ſerve as any point of ſupport; and when any one is ſo imprudent as to adhere to this kind of rock, the leaſt motion, the leaſt diſplacement of any part, makes the whole crumble to pieces. Beſides, from the ſummit of Veſuvius to the crater, the declivity, being exceedingly rapid, cannot be traverſed but on all fours, and ſuffering yourſelf to glide down amid a torrent of aſhes and lava. But the moſt dangerous obſtacles are thoſe awful excavations, which cannot be paſſed over without great trouble and difficulty.

Diſregarding the terror with which the Neapolitans tried to inſpire us, after having received their adieus, as if our ſeparation had been likely to be eternal, we ſet out in a carriage, at half paſt eleven at night, on the 18th of July, from the hotel of the French ambaſſador, fourteen in number, furniſhed with ropes and other articles which we ſuppoſed might be neceſſary, and all in a ſtate of the higheſt ſpirits, which never forſook us, even at times of the moſt imminent danger. We arrived about midnight at the foot of Veſuvius; and, having quitted our carriage, mounted well experienced mules, and proceeding one after the other, with Adjutant Dampierre at our head, amid the thick darkneſs of the night, reached half way to the ſteep ſummit of the mountain. We had a numerous body of guides, and their lighted torches gave to our expedition a ſolemn and myſterious air, which formed a ſtriking contraſt with the mirth and gayety of the company.

When we had aſcended about half way, we were obliged to alight, and to clamber up the ſteepeſt and moſt difficult part of Veſuvius, wading through the aſhes up to the knees, till, ex-

hauſted with fatigue, and covered with ſweat, we reached the ſummit at half paſt two in the morning.

The firſt thing that ſtruck us, as ſoon as the morning began to dawn, was a moſt magnificent ſpectacle—a ſuperb view of the city and port of Naples, the beautiful hills which ſurround them, and the vaſt extent of the ſea by which they are waſhed. After walking round part of the aperture of the volcano, that we might chooſe the moſt commodious part for deſcending, Adjutant Dampierre and C. Wickar firſt deſcended, without any accident, at the determined point. When they had got about a third of the way they were ſuddenly ſtopped by an excavation of fifty feet, which it was neceſſary to paſs. As they found that it was impoſſible to obtain any fixed point of ſupport on aſhes ſo moveable; and being convinced that the friction of ropes would ſoon have deſtroyed both the point of ſupport and the neighbouring maſſes to a great diſtance, they reſolved to return. Beſides, while deliberating on the means of deſcending, ſome ſtones rolling down from the ſummit occaſioned a general agitation wherever they paſſed: Adjutant Dampierre found the ground on which he ſtood ſhake beneath his feet; and he had ſcarcely quitted it, calling out to C. Wickar to follow him, when it diſappeared. Soon after, indeed, the whole place where they had ſtood, and all the neighbouring eminences, crumbled down ſucceſſively in the courſe of half an hour, and were precipitated to the bottom of the crater with an awful noiſe.

Before we renounced our enterpriſe to return to Naples, dejected on account of not having ſucceeded, we once more walked round the mouth of the crater, and at laſt diſcovered a long declivity, pretty ſmooth though very ſteep, which conducted to the focus. Without examining the precipices which it might be neceſſary to paſs before it could be reached, C. Debeer, the ambaſſador's ſecretary, accompanied by a lazzaroni, ſet out firſt to attempt the paſſage. When they had got half way, amid a torrent of aſhes, which the impreſſion of their feet made to roll down along with them, they found means to fix themſelves on the edge of a precipice twelve feet in height, which it was neceſſary to paſs before they could reach the lower declivity. The lazzaroni, frightened, refuſed to proceed; but, being promiſed a double ducat, avarice got the better of his timidity; he ſpeedily made the ſign of the croſs all over his body, and having invoked the Madonna, and St. Anthony of Padua, threw himſelf along with C. Debeer to the bottom of the firſt precipice: ſoon after they arrived at another, but being of leſs height it was paſſed with more eaſe. At length, amid a continual torrent of falling lava, aſhes, and ſtones, they arrived at the bottom of the crater, and ſtretched out their arms to us, ſending forth ſhouts of joy, which we returned with the utmoſt ſatisfaction and enthuſiaſm.

C. Houdouart,

C. Houdouart, engineer, immediately followed C. Debeer; and after encountering the ſame difficulties, and paſſing dangerous precipices, joined him at the bottom of the crater. Being there both convinced of the almoſt inſurmountable difficulty of aſcending, they threw themſelves into each other's arms, like two friends reduced to the neceſſity of terminating their lives together in a deſert iſland without any hopes of eſcaping from it.

They then began, but with cautious ſteps, to walk round this immenſe furnace, which ſtill ſmokes in ſeveral places. The intrepid Wickar, who was very deſirous to participate in their fate, called out to them to ſend ſome one to aſſiſt him in paſſing the two cliffs; but ſeeing no one coming, and growing impatient, he ruſhed forward, and rolled down toward them amid a torrent of ſtones, aſhes, and volcanic matters. Adjutant Dampierre, C. Bagneris, phyſician to the army, Freſſinet and Andras, French travellers, and Moulin, inſpector of poſts, ſoon followed, and arrived at the crater after having incurred the ſame dangers.

Wickar immediately ſat down on a heap of ſcoriæ, and, with that ſuperiority of talents for which he is diſtinguiſhed, ſketched out in profile, with a perfect reſemblance, the portraits of the eight Frenchmen who had deſcended. Each then formed a ſmall collection of the different volcanic matters which appeared to be new or curious, and endeavoured to make a few obſervations.

Had we been allowed to depend on ſucceſs, had we not been retarded in our preparations by our timid guides, and if ſome of us, having only juſt arrived at Naples, had not been ſtraitened in point of time, our deſcent would certainly have been much more uſeful, and the reſults much more ſatisfactory. However, though ill furniſhed with means, the following are the obſervations we were enabled to make.

Reaumur's thermometer, the only inſtrument we poſſeſſed, ſtood at twelve degrees, on the ſummit of Veſuvius: the air was cold, and ſomewhat moiſt: in the crater the quickſilver roſe to ſixteen degrees, and we experienced the mildeſt temperature.

The ſurface of this place, which, when ſeen by the naked eye, looking down from above, appeared entirely ſmooth, exhibited, when we were at the bottom, nothing but a vaſt extent of aſperities. We were conſtantly obliged to paſs over lava exceedingly porous, in general pretty hard, but which in ſome places, and particularly thoſe where we entered, was ſtill ſoft, and yielded under our feet. The ſpectacle which ſtruck us moſt was the numerous ſpiracles, which either at the bottom of the crater or the interior ſides of the mountain ſuffers the vapours to eſcape. When we arrived at the crater, we were deſirous to aſcertain whether theſe vapours were of a noxious qua-

lity: we walked through them, and inſpired them ſeveral times, but felt no inconvenience from them. The thermometer placed in one of theſe ſpiracles indicated fifty-four degrees, in another it roſe only to twenty-two. In all theſe experiments our inſtrument was covered with a humid matter, which was ſoon diſſipated in the open air without leaving any traces.

In traverſing the ſurface of the crater, we perceived a focus half covered by a large maſs of pumice ſtone, and which, from its whole circumference, emitted a ſtrong heat. The thermometer placed at firſt at the entrance of it, and then immerſed to as great a depth as the nature of the ground and the heat would admit, never roſe higher than twenty-two degrees. This ſingularity ſurpriſed us, but we were not able to explain it.

The volcanic productions which we obſerved in the whole crater were lava, exceedingly porous, and which the fire in certain places had reduced to ſcoriæ. It was of a dark brown colour, and ſometimes reddiſh, but it is rare to find any white. The ſubſtances neareſt the ſpiracles are all covered or impregnated with ſulphur.

This mineral is found very often in a ſtate of oxygenation. It is ſometimes white, and ſometimes of a yellowiſh colour, and the ſharp and pungent impreſſion it leaves on the tongue ſufficiently indicates the ſtate in which it is. The burning focus, of which we have ſpoken, produces the ſame reſults. Some baſaltic lava is alſo found, but in ſmall quantity; one ſpecimen only, of a conſiderable weight and beautiful poliſh, attracted our attention.

On the north ſide of the crater there are two large fiſſures, one of which is twenty feet in depth, and the other about fifteen. They are ſhaped like an inverted cone. The matter with which they are covered is entirely ſimilar to that on the reſt of the ſurface. They emit neither ſmoke nor heat; yet ſome ſulphurous productions plainly ſhow that the fire in theſe places has not long been extinct.

When we had finiſhed theſe few obſervations, it was neceſſary that we ſhould think of returning. The deſcent is far leſs laborious than the aſcent; for it is difficult to climb eminences where the points of ſupport are ſo moveable. Beſides, people cannot aſcend but one at a time in ſucceſſion, after long intervals, for fear of burying under a torrent of volcanic matters thoſe who follow, as the foot, when moved, diſplaces the aſhes, &c. to the diſtance of thirty feet round.

When we arrived at the two precipices, we were obliged to aſcend by mounting on the ſhoulders of a man placed at the bottom, and laying hold of a ſtick held by another at the top, and to reſt our feet no where but in a very gentle manner. At length, by prudence and caution, we reached the ſummit of Veſuvius without any accident, but exhauſted with fatigue, and ſo

covered

covered with aſhes and ſmoke, as to be ſcarely diſtinguiſhable. Our ſix companions, who had not deſcended into the crater, were overjoyed when they ſaw us again, and ſupplied us with ſome refreſhments, of which we had great need.

When one grand difficulty is ſurmounted, inferior ones are overlooked, as of little importance. In leſs than twenty-five minutes we again deſcended, having confirmed, after examining various ſtones, this obſervation, that Veſuvius is the only known volcano which throws up from its bowels primordial ſubſtances, without being altered by the fire, and ſuch as are found at preſent in banks and veins.

At half after eight in the morning, we arrived at Portici, the inhabitants of which were much ſurpriſed to ſee us return, all ſafe. Their delicious fruits, and their excellent wine, called *lacryma Chriſti*, ſoon made us forget our fatigue, and we then proceeded to Naples, which we reached in ſafety.

The reſult of this excurſion, which was only an experiment, can be of no further uſe than to ſhow the poſſibility of reaching the crater, and to open the way to it to philoſophers, naturaliſts, and chymiſts, who, by exploring this immenſe furnace of nature at their leiſure, will find a variety of matters which will afford ample field for the application of their chymical knowledge, and may enable them to make diſcoveries intereſting to the arts and the ſciences.

The names of the eight Frenchmen, in the order in which they deſcended, are as follow: Debeer, ſecretary to the ambaſſador Alquier; Houdouart, chief engineer of bridges and cauſeways attached to the army of Italy; Wickar, painter; Dampierre, adjutant-commandant; Bagneris, phyſician to the army of obſervation; Freſſinet and Andras, French travellers; and Moulin, inſpector of poſts.

GENERAL REVIEW *of* POLITICS,

For December, 1801.

FRANCE.

SEVERAL treaties concluded by the Chief Conſul have been ſubmitted to the conſideration of the legiſlative body, who appear to have approved of the whole. It has choſen a committee to examine into the ſchedule of the national code, lately communicated; but this committee has inauſpiciouſly rejected the firſt chapter altogether, as ill arranged, incoherent, and diſſatisfactory.

The Valais, it is ſaid, will be ſpeedily united to France, in exchange for which Switzerland is to receive the Frikthal. If, as it is reported, England and Ruſſia concur in offering Malta to the

the Pope, France can ſtart no objection; the eccleſiaſtical ſtates are at this hour, and muſt continue to be under the abſolute controul of this republic; conſequently Malta may even then be regarded as her own.

The pacific congreſs have at length aſſembled at Amiens, and commenced their important diſcuſſions: a variety of meſſages have been interchanged between the Britiſh cabinet and Lord Cornwallis, and ſeveral points have been already ſtarted, concerning which, as may naturally be ſuppoſed, a difference of opinion has been manifeſted between the plenipotentiaries. Among theſe, one of the moſt important relative to our country is, an adjuſtment of the claims of Britiſh ſubjects to property of different kinds in France, ſo as to produce an equal advantage, or ſomething like an equality, to property poſſeſſed by Frenchmen in Great Britain. Between theſe claimants of the two nations, the war has produced an immenſe difference in their ſituation, and a difference which it will be found extremely difficult to reconcile.

The ſittings of the legiſlative body have been dedicated to harangues on the different treaties of peace concluded by the republic. In the ſitting of the 29th of October, Fleurieu preſented that concluded between France and Ruſſia; and Defermont on the following day preſented that between Portugal and France. A ſpeech from both theſe members, enlarging on the advantages of thoſe treaties, was all the proceedings which took place on the occaſion.

It is well known, that the negociation for a peace had commenced prior to the entrance of a Spaniſh army into Portugal, and it now appears obvious, from this celebrated political notice, that the court of Spain was prompted to this attack in conſequence of the diſcuſſion which had actually occurred between the negociating powers, and the refuſal of the Engliſh cabinet to ſurrender the iſland of Trinidad. Portugal ſeems to have been regarded, and with too much juſtice, throughout the whole of the continent, as a mere Britiſh colony; and Spain was ſtimulated, in conſequence, to make an attack upon Portugal, in order to recover the iſland of Trinidad, by means of the provinces ſhe might capture from Portugal, and the indemnification ſhe could hereby offer to England for the reſtoration of this colony.

It is alſo intimated in the ſtate of the French republic, which the Firſt Conſul has preſented to the legiſlative body, that the French government was not altogether ſatisfied with the abrupt peace concluded at Bajadoz, and that it has, in conſequence, acceded, as far as relates to itſelf, to the ceſſion of Trinidad to the Engliſh; while it ſtrenuouſly reſiſted a ſimilar ceſſion of the Cape of Good Hope, and inſiſted upon its reſtoration to Batavia.

EAST INDIES.

A letter from Bombay of the 2d of March ſays, "On Wedneſday the brother of Rajah Petumber departed this life, and, ſhocking to relate, with the corpſe, which was burnt on Thurſday morning, between eleven and twelve, at Coſſinaut Baboo's Gaut, two fine young women, wives of the deceaſed, were alſo committed to the flames."

Advices have been received from Madras of two very ſevere actions having been fought in the Tinavelly country (in the Carnatic) between the Company's forces under Colonel M'Cauley, and ſome native inſurgents. In the firſt attack, which was made with a very inferior force, the Company's troops were repulſed with conſiderable loſs, no fewer than nineteen officers having (as it is ſaid) been killed and wounded. In the laſt attack our troops were ſucceſsful, and completely routed the inſurgents.

Some arrangements of a political nature are ſaid to be making at Surat. The nabob has already ſigned a new treaty, in conſequence of which he has been ſolemnly placed on the muſnud by his excellency Governor Duncan. The nabob is firmly attached to our government in conſequence of this treaty.

The Court of Directors of the Eaſt India Company have lately extended the indulgence of private trade to the commander and officers of their regular ſhips; ſo that the commander is permitted to inveſt on board his ſhip to the extent of 56 tons out and home; the officers likewiſe occupy a certain proportion of tonnage free of freight.

The laſt diſpatches received from Sir Home Popham are dated from Coſſire Bay, in the Red Sea, where his flag was flying on board his Majeſty's ſhip the Romney, of fifty guns. Sir Home Popham and the ſquadron under his command were in May laſt in the harbour of Jeddah, in the Red Sea, where he received many very rich preſents from the chiefs in the neighbourhood.

GREAT BRITAIN.

We are ſorry to ſtate, that a diſobedient and mutinous ſpirit has again diſcovered itſelf in the Britiſh navy, and has, in a greater or leſs degree, pervaded every part of the Channel fleet, though it has only broken out into overt acts of reſiſtance in that department of it ſtationed in Bantry Bay, under the command of Admiral Mitchell. The cabinet has been long appriſed of a conſiderable degree of diſſatisfaction, which, from ſome cauſe or other (for the whole is yet wrapt up in no ſmall portion of myſtery) has been diſplayed, not only by the mariners, but by many of the inferior officers appointed to this ſtation; and on this account the fleet has been frittered into different diviſions, to prevent the accuſtomed facility of communication.

The

The immediate cauſe of reſiſtance in the fleet under Admiral Mitchell, was an order from government for this ſquadron to ſail forthwith to the Weſt Indies. The mutineering petty officers and ſailors, however, now that the war has terminated, and left them no hopes of a ſplendid booty in a quarter towards which they would readily have advanced before, refuſed to weigh anchor, and inſiſted upon remaining at home!

It is with real ſatisfaction we are enabled to inform our readers, that by the prudence of the Admiralty, and the ſpirited conduct of Admiral Mitchell himſelf, and the officers who acted in concert with him, the mutiny is now completely quelled, and the ringleaders have been ſecured, and are to take their trials immediately.

Mr. Addington, it is ſaid, has explained to ſeveral of the members of the whig party, the grounds upon which he hopes for the independent ſupport of thoſe gentlemen. Among other things, he propoſes to repeal all thoſe acts which the termination of the war renders no longer neceſſary, and promiſes a moderate peace eſtabliſhment.

REMARKS *on* HIGH FED MEAT.

THAT within the laſt ten years an alteration has taken place in the quality, as well as in the price, of beef and mutton, we all feel; but whether that alteration has produced any national advantage, deſerves enquiry. I think that no perſon, who, on paſſing the butchers' ſhops, has noticed the fatneſs of the meat, would prefer it, as a dainty, to beef and mutton fed with graſs, or wholeſome vegetable food, as was formerly the practice. Like many others, I ſtopped at the ſhops where the high bred beef and the diſguſting fat mutton were exhibited, and found that the ſpectators were unanimouſly of opinion, that a very ſmall portion of the meat was eatable; and that novelty alone procured it a ſale at the enormous and unreaſonable prices wnich it produced.

I was one of a party which dined at a tavern in Covent Garden, when the landlord produced a piece of what he called the prize beef, and for which he had paid 15d. a pound. The company, which conſiſted of ten perſons, ſome of the corporation of the city of London, and all tolerable judges of good eating, agreed that the meat was ſuch as could not be eaten, on account of its fatneſs; and, from the ſuppoſed manner of its being fed, doubted whether it could be wholeſome.

The aſſertion, that the preſent mode of breeding ſtock and feeding cattle is a national advantage, ſhould not be haſtily admitted. It is much to be doubted whether ſuch cattle will be either as uſeful or go as far as that fed in the uſual manner.

AN ANECDOTE.

A Gentleman, a great landed proprietor in Ayrſhire, in Scotland, was lately waited upon by ſeveral of his tenants. After a little converſation, they expreſſed a wiſh, that he ſhould uſe his intereſt to get the ports ſhut againſt the importation of grain. That is what I cannot do," he replied, " but you can of yourſelves eaſily effect it." " Which way?" enquired one of them. " By ſelling your meal," anſwered he, " at or under one ſhilling the peck, the ports will ſoon be ſhut." " We cannot afford, Sir, to ſell it at that rate." " Try it," ſaid he, " for this year, and if you cannot afford it, come to me, and, upon my word of honour, I will take your leaſes off your hand." The farmers, panic ſtruck at ſuch advice being given them by their landlord, inſtantly withdrew from his preſence, not knowing how to look him or one another in the face.

On CONDESCENSION.

THE foundation of diſcontent, in many ſituations of life, is, a compariſon, in the mind, of the humble ſtation of one with the exalted condition of another. This is its original ſource, which, in the preſent conſtitution of things, admits not of a remedy. Not ſo the aggravating cauſe of this diſcontent, the pains which proud ſuperiors take to make their inferiors more ſenſible of their inferiority. That is an evil which lies at the door of individuals, and claims their redreſs, by ſmoothing the inequalities of fortune.

If we view the ſubject with a philoſophic eye, there is abundant reaſon for caution againſt arrogance, in the ſlightneſs of that caſualty which has unmeritedly given to many a diſtinguiſhed ſhare in the poſſeſſions and bleſſings of life. By the natural right of mankind, no one can claim a more than equal portion with others, ſo ſay ſome philoſophers, who, however, are not hiſtorians, for no ſuch right ever actually exiſted, or could exiſt above a day. The laws of ſociety have arranged property in its juſt directions, but ſtill without a licence for the favourites of fortune to trample over thoſe who have a leſſer portion.

By the conſtitutions of ſtates, and general conſent, the point of right is fixed. By many, property has been acquired by induſtry and toil. All agree to preſerve this right; and, in return, expect the protection of the general body to confirm to us what has fallen to our ſeveral ſhares. As members of ſociety, we are under an obligation, virtually equal to an oath, not to violate the rules of this diſpenſation; and an infringement of them is pronounced equally criminal with a tranſgreſſion of the ſuppoſed natural obligation.

Anſwer, by J. Squance, of Exeter, to H. Humphreys's Charade, inſerted Nov. 9.

WARDEN's the officer you mean,
As in your charade's plainly ſeen.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; W. England, of Dorcheſter; J. Smith, S. Murch, and S. Hill, of Exeter; J. Whittle, of Upway; and J. Tremlett, of Newton Abbott.

Anſwer, by H. Trenchard, Jun. Chard, to the Rebus, inſerted November 16.

YOUR rebus, if I rightly ſcan,
Its plain 'twill prove an EPIGRAM.

*** We have received the like anſwer from J. Squance, H. Humphreys, J. Smith, T. Whicker, W. Harris, jun. S. Murch, and J. Hill, of Exeter; J. Guppy, jun. of Chard; R. Maſſett, of Saltaſh; and W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton.

Anſwer, by J. Smith, of Exeter, to I.'s Rebus, inſerted November 16.

BLEST CHARLOTTE is old England's boaſt,
Long may ſhe live the Britiſh toaſt!

☞ We have received the like anſwer from W. Cooper, of Plymouth-Dock; R. Maſſett, of Saltaſh; J. Whittle, of Upway; T. Whicker, Jeſſe Hill, W. Harris, jun. S. Murch, W. Strong, J. Squance, and H. Humphreys, of Exeter; and W. Mann, of Aſhburton.

A CHARADE, *by H. Humphreys, of Exeter.*

THE huntſman equipp'd in my firſt doth purſue
The hare o'er meadows and fields;
The uſe of my ſecond none now will deſpiſe
Such increaſe to all perſons it yields.
O may my boſom never, never know,
My whole that foul, fantaſtic foe.

A REBUS, *by R. Berry, of South Molton.*

A Poet, firſt, ye Sirs, unfold;
Laertes' ſon muſt next be told;
A well known town then make appear,
That's ſituate in Devonſhire;
The king of Crete next bring to light;
A well known game muſt come in ſight:
Take the initials, them unite,
You'll find in what I take delight.

A REBUS, *by Matthew Lowndes, Jun.*

YE ſapient gents. a river firſt diſcloſe;
And next the country where that river flows;
A title of diſtinction muſt be nam'd;
Likewiſe a poet in our annals fam'd:
A name in ſacred ſcriptures muſt be found;
And what protects us from our foes around:
The initials make a Britiſh hero's name,
Who's loudly praiſed by the trump of fame.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

On BEAUTY *and* GRACE.

" Grace was in all her ſteps, Heav'n in her Eye.—MILTON."

BEAUTY, which makes the proudeſt kings to crouch,
And has in moſt concerns the chiefeſt place,
Delights the eye, and grateful to the touch—
But ſtill how vain when found devoid of grace!

When grace within a beauteous body dwells,
That's a perfection makes the owner bleſt;
Without it, beauty a plain falſhood tells,
It ſhews the female quite unſeemly dreſs'd.

Beauty when graceleſs, is a ſail-leſs bark;
A greenleſs ſpring; a handſome, lightleſs room;
A ſunleſs day; a ſtarleſs night, and dark;
An angel's form envelop'd in a gloom.

Beauty which o'er our ſenſes ſo prevails,
Which now ſo captivates our eyes and hearts,
At fifteen buds, at twenty flow'rs, then fails;
Or falls, perhaps, and to the duſt reverts.

Beauty reſembles much the ſphere of glaſs,
That Archimedes fram'd and fill'd with ſtars;
As fair, as frail (if guarded not), alas!
Who raps it, ſnaps it, and the fabric mars.

Beauty in heart ſhould be, as well as eye,
The ſoul ſuperior to the body prove;
This will all outward beauty well ſupply,
Give " every geſture, dignity and love."

ROY, *Martock.*

THOUGHTS *on* PEACE.

STILL o'er that ſhrine defiance rears its head,
Which rolls in ſilent murmurs o'er the dead,
That ſhrine which conqueſt, as it ſtems the flood,
Too often tinges deep with human blood;
Still o'er the land ſtern devaſtation reigns,
Its giant mountains, and its ſpreading plains,
Where the dark pines, their heads all gloomy, wave,
Or ruſhing cataracts, loud ſounding, lave
The precipice, whoſe brow, with awful pride,
Tow'rs high above, and ſcorns the foaming tide;
The village ſweet, the foreſt ſtretching far,
Groan undiſtinguiſh'd, 'mid the ſhock of war.
There, the rack'd matron ſees her ſon expire,
There, claſps the infant ſon his murder'd ſire;
While the ſad virgin on her lover's face,
Weeps with the laſt farewell, the laſt embrace;

And

And the lone widow too, with frenzied cries,
Amid the common wreck, unheeded dies.

O peace, bright ſeraph! heaven-lov'd maid, return!
And bid diſtracted nature ceaſe to mourn;
O! let the enſign drear of war be furl'd,
And pour thy bleſſings on a bleeding world;
Then ſocial order ſhall again expand,
Its ſovereign good again ſhall bleſs the land;
Elate the ſimple villager ſhall ſee,
Contentment's inoffenſive revelry:
Then once again ſhall o'er the foaming tide,
The ſwelling ſail of commerce fearleſs ride;
With bounteous hand ſhall plenty grace our ſhore,
And cheerleſs want's complaints be known no more.
Then hear a nation's pray'r, lov'd goddeſs hear!
Wipe the wan cheek, deep lav'd by many a tear;
Nature, the triumph foul of horror o'er,
Shall raiſe her frame to ſcenes of blood no more.
Pale recollection ſhall recall her woes,
Again ſhall paint her agonizing throes,
Theſe, o'er the earth thine empire firm ſhall raiſe,
Unaw'd by war's deſtructive ſtorms, the bliſs of future days.

Barnard's Inn. T. G***.

VERSES WRITTEN ON VISITING SIDMOUTH.

NOW reigns a ſolemn ſtillneſs o'er the deep,
No ruder blaſts diſturb the general peace;
Serenely ſmile the ſkies, and every wave
Dies with a gentle murmur on the ſhore.
Now ſinks the glorious regent of the day
Behind the weſtern cliffs, and eve reſumes
Her modeſt ſceptre. O'er the ſmooth expanſe
The ſhadowy breeze is gently ſeen to move,
Its track diſtinguiſh'd by a darker ſhade.
The ſea-gull flutters in the duſky air,
Whoſe quick tumultuous cry makes ſilence ſeem
More ſilent; while above the briny wave,
The floundering dolphin ſhoots the pointed head,
And calls imagination to ſurvey
Ocean's vaſt progeny; the caverns deep,
Unfathomable immenſe, where lie conceal'd
Unwieldy forms, peopling the dark abyſs.
Soon from heaven's concave, looks the paler orb,
Whoſe changeful rule the ebbing ſeas obey,
Upon the ſubject tide, and ſoftly pours
Her trembling radiance down: on that bright track
The eye delighted dwells, and ſeems to trace
Ideal ſhapes in robes of pureſt light,
With gentle minds inform'd, that love to glide
O'er the calm boſom of the ſwelling main,
Beneath the lunar beam.

Exeter. J. H. B.

The POET's WISH.

MY ſhare of duties decently fulfill'd,
May ſome diſeaſe, not tardy to perform
Its deſtin'd office, yet with gentle ſtroke,
Diſmiſs me weary to a ſafe retreat,
Beneath the turf that I have often trod!